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The humble  
**P E T I T I O N**

Of the  
Lords and Commons assembled  
in P A R L I A M E N T,  
Presented to His M A J E S T Y  
at Y O R K, 18. April.

Concerning His Message lately  
sent unto them, touching His  
Resolution of going  
into *Ireland*.

W ith His Majesties Answer  
thereunto.



Y O R K:

Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer  
to the Kings most Excellent Majestic: And  
by the Assignes of J O H N B I L L.

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TO THE KING'S  
MOST EXCELLENT  
MAJESTIE.

The humble Petition of the Lords and  
Commons Assembled in  
Parliament.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**Y** Our Majesties most loyall and  
faithfull Subjects, the Lords  
and Commons in Parliament,  
have duely considered the  
Message received from Your Maiestie,  
concerning Your purpose of going into  
*Ireland* in your own Person, to prosecute  
the War there, with the Bodies of Your  
English Subiects, Leavied, Transported,  
and Maintained at their charge, which  
You are pleased to propound to us, not as  
a matter wherein Your Maiestie desires

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the advice of Your Parliament, but as already firmly resolved on, and forthwith to be put in execution, by granting out Commissions for the levying of two thousand Foot and two hundred Horse for a Guard for Your Person, when You shall come into that Kingdom: Wherein we cannot choose, but with all reverence and humility to Your Maiestie observe, that You have declined your great Councell, the Parliament, and varied from the usuall course of Your Royall Predecessors, That a businesse of so great importance concerning the Peace & Safety of all your Subjects, and wherein they have a speciall interest, by Your Maiesties Promise, and by those great sums which they have disbursed, and for which they stand ingaged, should be concluded and undertaken without their advice. Whereupon we hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time Your Maiestie shall go into Ireland, You will very much endanger the Safety of your Royall Person and Kingdoms, and of all other States professing the Protestant

stant Religion in Christendom, and make way to the execution of that cruell and bloody designe of the Papists, every where to root out and destroy the Reformed Religion, as the Irish Papists have, in a great part, already effected in that Kingdom, and in all likelihood would quickly be attempted in other places, if the consideration of the strength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* did not much hinder and discourage the execution of any such designe: And that we may manifest to your Maiestie the danger and misery which such a journey and enterprise would produce, we present to your Maiestie the Reasons of this our humble opinion and advice:

1 Your Royall Person will be subiect, not onely to the casualty of War, but to secret Practises and Conspiracies; especially your Maiestie continuing your Profession to maintain the Protestant Religion in that Kingdom, which the Papists are generally bound by their Vow to extirpate.

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2. It will exceedingly encourage the Rebels, who do generally professe and declare, That your Maiestie doth favour and allow their proceedings, and that this Insurrection was undertaken by the Warrant of your Commission: and it will make good their expectation of great advantage by your Maiesties presence at this time of so much distraction in this Kingdom, whereby they may hope we shall be disabled to supply the War there, especially there appearing lesse necessity of your Maiesties journey at this time, by reason of the manifold Successes which God hath given against them.

3. It will much hinder and impair the means whereby this War is to be supported, and increase the charge of it, and in both these respects make it more insupportable to your Subiects: And this we can confidently affirm, because many of the Adventurers, who have already subscribed, do, upon the knowledge of your Maiesties intention, declare their resolution not to pay in their Money, and others very

very willing to have subscribed, do now  
professe the contrary.

4 Your Maiesties absence must neces-  
sarily very much interrupt the proceedings  
of Parliament, and deprive your Subjects  
of the benefit of those further Acts of  
Grace and Justice which we shall humbly  
expect from your Maiestie, for the esta-  
blishing of a perfect Union and mutuall  
Confidence betwixt your Maiestie and  
your people, and procuring and confirm-  
ing the prosperity and happinesse of both.

5 It will exceedingly increase the Jeal-  
ousies and Fears of your People; and  
render their doubts more probable of  
some Force intended by some evill Coun-  
cels neer your Maiestie, in opposition of  
the Parliament, and favour of the malig-  
nant Party of this Kingdom.

6 It will bereave your Parliament of  
that advantage whereby they were indu-  
ced to undertake this War, upon your  
Maiesties promise that it should be mana-  
ged by their Advice: which cannot be  
done, if your Maiestie, contrary to their

Counfels, ſhall undertake to order and govern it in your own Perſon.

Upon which, and divers other Reaſons, we have reſolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both Houſes, That we cannot, with diſcharge of our Duty, conſent to any Levies or raiſing of Souldiers to be made by your Maieſty for this your intended Expedition into *Ireland*, or to the payment of any Armie or Souldiers there, but ſuch as ſhall be employed and governed according to our advice and direction: And, that if ſuch Levies ſhall be made by any Commiſſion of your Maieſtie, not agreed to by both Houſes of Parliament, we ſhall be forced to interpret the ſame to be raiſed to the terrour of your people, and diſturbance of the publique peace, and hold our ſelves bound, by the Laws of the Kingdom, to apply the Authority of Parliament to ſuppreſſe the ſame.

And we do further moſt humbly declare, That if your Maieſtie ſhall, by ill counſell, be perſwaded to go contrary to  
this

this Advice of your Parliament ( which we hope your Maiestie will not ) we do not, in that case, hold our selves bound to submit to any Commissioners which your Maiestie shall chuse, but do resolve to preserve and govern the Kingdom by the Counsell and Advice of Parliament, for your Maiestie and your Posterity, according to our Allegiance and the Law of the Land.

Wherefore, we do most humbly pray, and advise your Maiestie to desist from this your intended passage into *Ireland*, and from all preparation of Men and Arms tending thereunto, and to leave the managing of that War to your Parliament, according to your Maiesties promise made unto us, and your Royall Commission granted under your great Seal of *England*, by advice of both Houses: In prosecution whereof, by Gods blessing, we have already made a prosperous entrance by many Defeats of the Rebels, whereby they are much weakned and disheartened, and have no probable means of subsistence,

istance, if our proceedings shall not be interrupted by this interposition of your Maiesties Journey: But that we may hope, upon good grounds, that within a short time, without hazard of your Maiesties Person, and so much dangerous confusion to your Kingdoms, which must needs ensue, if you should proceed in this Resolution, we shall be enabled fully to vindicate your Maiesties Rights and Authority in that Kingdom, and punish those horrible outrageous Cruelties which have been committed in the murdering and spoiling so many of your Subjects, and bring that Realm to such a condition, as may be much for the advantage of your Maiestie and this Crown, the honour of your Government, and contentment of your people. For the better and more speedy effecting whereof, we do again renew our humble desires of your return to your Parliament, and that You will please to reject all Counsels and apprehensions which may any way derogate from that faithfulness and allegiance

(9)

legiance, which in truth and sincerity  
we have alwayes born and profest to  
your Maiestie, and shall ever make  
good, to the utmost, with  
our Lives and  
Fortunes.

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B 3

His

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DIEN ET MON DROIT

(2)  
... which is with and friendly  
we have always been and people to  
your share in, and shall ever make  
good to the utmost, with



## His Majesties Answer to the aforesaid Petition.

**W**E are so troubled and astonished to finde the unexpected Reception and Mis-understanding of Our Message of the eighth of Aprill, concerning Our Irish Journey, That, being so much disappointed of the Approbation and Thanks we looked for to that Declaration, we have great cause to doubt, whether it be in Our power to say, or do any thing which shall not fall within the like Interpretation: But, as we have in that Message called God to Witnesse the sincerity of the profession of Our onely Ends for the undertaking that Journey,

Journey, so we must appeal to all Our good Subjects, and the whole world, whether the Reasons alledged against that journey, be of weight to satisfie Our Understanding, or the Counsell presented, to dissuade Us from it, be full of that Duty as is like to prevaile over Our Affections.

For Our resolving of so great a Businesse without the Advice of Our Parliament, we must remember you, how often, by Our Messages, we made the same offer, if you should advise Us thereunto, to which you never gave us the least Answer; but in your late Declaration told Us, That ye were not to be satisfied with words: So that we had reason to conceive, you rather avoided (out of regard to Our Person) to give us counsell to run that hazard, then that you disapproved the Inclination. And what greater Comfort or Security  
can

can the Protestants of Christendom receive, then by seeing a Protestant King venture and engage his Person for the defence of that Profession, and the suppression of Popery; to which we solemnly protested in that Message, never to grant a Toleration, upon what pretence soever, or an Abolition of any of the Laws there in force against the Professors of it. And when we consider the great Calamities, and unheard of Cruelties Our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdom have undergone, for the space of neer, or full six moneths, The growth and encrease of the strength of those barbarous Rebels, and the evident probability of foreign Supplies (if they are not speedily suppressed) The very slow Succours hitherto sent them from hence, That the Officers of severall Regiments (who have long since been allowed entertainment from you for that service)

C                      have

have not raised any supply or succour for that Kingdom, That many Troops of Horse have long lieneer Chester untransported, That the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (on whom we relyed principally for the conduct and managing of Affairs there) is still in this Kingdom, notwithstanding Our earnestnesse expressed, That he should repair to his command; And when we consider the many and great scandals raised upon Our Self, by report of the Rebels, and not sufficiently discountenanced here, notwithstanding so many Professions of Ours, And had seen a book lately printed by the Order of the House of Commons, entituled, A Remonstrance of divers remarkable passages concerning the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, wherein some Examinations are set down, which (how improbable or impossible soever) may make an impression in the minds of many  
of

of Our weak Subjects; And lastly, When we duly weigh the dishonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdom, if full and speedy relief be not dispatched thither, we could, nor cannot think of a better way to discharge Our duty to Almighty God, for the defence of the true Protestant Profession, or to manifest Our affection to Our three Kingdoms, for their preservation, then by engaging Our Person in this Expedition, as many of Our Royall Progenitors have done, even in foreign parts, upon causes of lesse importance and pietie, with great honour to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdom; And therefore we expected at least thanks for such Our Inclination. For the danger of Our Person; we conceive it necessary and worthy of a King, to venture his Life to preserve his Kingdom: Neither can it be imagined, That we will sit

still, and suffer Our Kingdoms to be lost, and Our good Protestant Subjects to be massacred, without exposing Our own Person to the utmost hazard for their Relief and Preservation. Our life, when it was most pleasant, being nothing so precious to Us, as it is, and shall be to govern and preserve Our People with Honour and Justice.

For any encouragement to the Rebels, because of the Reports they raised; We cannot conceive that the Rebels are capable of a greater terror, then by the presence of their lawfull King, in the head of an Army to chastize them. Besides, it will be an unspeakable advantage to them, if any Reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to doe, if such Reports were not raised: This would quickly teach them, in this jealous Age, to prevent, by such Reports, any other Persons coming against them,

them, whom they had no minde should be so employed.

We marvell that the Adventurers (whose advantage was a principall motive, next the reason before mentioned, to Us) should so much mistake Our purpose, whose Interest, we conceive, must be much improved by the Expedition, we hope, by Gods blessing, to use in this service: This being the most probable way for the speedy conquest of the Rebels. Their Lands are sufficiently secured by Act of Parliament.

We think not Our Self kindly used, that the addition of so few men to your Levies (for a Guard to Our Person in Ireland) should be thought fit for your refusall: And much more, That having used so many Cautions in that Message, both in the smallnesse of the Number, In Our having raised none untill your Answer, In their being to

be raised onely neer their place of shipping, In their being there to be armed, and that not till they were ready to be shipped, In the provision by the Oaths that none of them should be Papists (all which appears sufficient to destroy all grounds of Jealousie of any force intended by them in Opposition to the Parliament, or favour to any malignant Party) any suspicion should notwithstanding be grounded upon it.

Neither can it be understood, That when we recommended the managing of that warre to you, that we intended to exclude Our Self, or not to be concerned in your Councells, that if we found any Expedient (which in Our Conscience or Understanding we thought necessary for that great work) we might not put it in practice. We look upon you as Our great Councell, whose Advice we allwayes have and will (with great regard and deliberation)

liberation) Weigh and consider: But we look upon Our Self, as neither deprived of Our Understanding, or devested of any Right we had, if there were no Parliament sitting. we cal'd you together by Our owne Writ and Authoritie ( without which you could not have met ) to give Us faithfull Counsell about Our great Affairs, but we resigned not up Our owne Interest and Freedom: we never subjected Our Self to your absolute determination: we have allwayes weighed your Counsels, as proceeding from a Body intrusted by Us; and when we have discented from you, we have returned you the Reasons, which have prevailed with Our Conscience and Understanding, with that Candor as a Prince should use towards his Subjects, and that Affection which a Father can expresse to his Children: what Application hath been used to rectifie Our Understanding

derstanding by Reasons, or what  
 Motives have been given to per-  
 swade Our Affections; We leave  
 all the world to judge: And then  
 we must tell you, howsoever a ma-  
 jor part may binde you in matter  
 of Opinion, we hold Our Self  
 (and we are sure the Law, and the  
 Constitution of the Kingdom hath  
 alwayes held the same) as free to  
 dissent (till Our Reason be convin-  
 ced for the generall good) as if you  
 delibered no Opinion.

For Our Journey it self; The  
 Circumstances of your Petition are  
 such, as we know not well what  
 Answer to return, or whether we  
 were best to give any: That part  
 which pretends to carry reason with  
 it, doth no way satisfie Us: The  
 other, which is rather Representa-  
 tion and Menace, then Advice, can-  
 not stagger Us: Our Answer  
 therefore is, That we shall be ve-  
 ry glad to finde the work of Ireland  
 so

so easie, as you seem to think it,  
 which did not so appear by any thing  
 known to Us, when we sent Our  
 Message : And though we will  
 never refuse, or be unwilling to ven-  
 ture Our Person, for the good and  
 safety of Our People, we are not  
 so weary of Our Life, as to ha-  
 zard it impertinently : And there-  
 fore, since you seem to have recei-  
 ved Advertisements, of some late  
 and great Successes in that King-  
 dom, we will stay some time to see  
 the event of those, and not pursue  
 this Resolution, till we have given  
 you a second notice : But if we finde  
 the miserable condition of Our poor  
 Subjects of that Kingdom, be not  
 speedily relieved, we will (with  
 Gods assistance) visit them with  
 Succours, as Our particular Cre-  
 dit and Interest can supply Us  
 with, if you refuse to joyn with  
 Us : And we doubt not, but the  
 Levies we shall make (in which

we will observe punctually the former, and all other Cautions, as may best prevent all Fears and Jealousies, and to use no Power but what is legal will be so much to the satisfaction of Our Subjects, as no person will dare presume to resist Our Commands, and if they should, at their perils. In the meantime, we hope, Our forwardnesse so remarkable to that Service, shall be notorious to all the world, and that all Scandals laid on Us in that businesse shall be cleerly wiped away.

we were so carefull that Our Journey into Ireland should not interrupt the Proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive Our Subjects of any Acts of Justice, or farther Acts of Grace for the reall benefit of Our People, that we made a free offer of leaving such Power behinde, as should not onely be necessary for the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom,

but

but fully provide for the happy pro-  
 gresse of the Parliament. And there-  
 fore we cannot but wonder, since  
 such power hath been alwayes left  
 here, by Commission, for the Go-  
 vernment of this Kingdom, when  
 Our Progenitors have been out  
 of the same, during the sitting of  
 Parliaments; and since your selves  
 desired that such a power might be  
 left here by Us, at Our last going  
 into Scotland: what Law of the  
 Land have you now found to dis-  
 spence with you from submitting to  
 such Authority, legally derived  
 from Us in Our absence, and to in-  
 able you to govern this Kingdom  
 by your own meer Authority?

For Our return towards London,  
 we have given you so full an An-  
 swer in Our late Declaration, & in  
 Answer to your Petition presented  
 to Us the 26. of March last, that we  
 know not what to adde. If you will  
 not provide for Our security with

you, nor agree to remove to another place, Where there may not be the same danger to Us, we expected, that (since we have been so particular in the Causes and Grounds of Our Fears) you should have sent Us word that you had published such Declarations against future Tumults, and unlawfull Assemblies, and taken such course for the suppressing of seditious Sermons and Pamphlets, that Our Fears of that kinde might be laid aside, before you should presse Our return.

To conclude, we could wish that you would (with the same strictnesse and severity) weigh and examine your Messages and Expressions to Us, as you do those ye receive from Us, for we are very confident, that if you examine Our Rights and Priviledges, by what Our Predecessors have enjoyed, and your owne Addresses by the usuall courses

courses of your Ancestors, you will  
 finde many exceptions in this Pe-  
 tition, Warranted onely by your  
 own Authority: Which indeed we  
 forbear to take notice of, or to give  
 Answer to, lest we should be tempt-  
 ed (in a just indignation) to expresse  
 a greater Passion then we are yet  
 willing to put on: God in his good  
 time, we hope, will so inform the  
 hearts of all Our Subjects, that  
 we shall recover from the mischief  
 and danger of this distemper: On  
 whose good pleasure we will  
 wait With all Patience  
 and Humility.

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FINIS.

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